

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 168014

FOLLOWING REPEAT PONTA DELGADA 0397 ACTION TELAVIV CAIRO
INFO SECSTATE LISBON COMUSFORAZ JULY 3.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L PONTA DELGADA 0397

CAIRO OR TEL AVIV FOR DENIS CLIFT, VICE PRESIDENT'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP(MONDALE, WALTER), PO

SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE

REF: JERUSALEM 1789(DTG 302118Z JUN 78)(NOTAL);
PONTA DELGADA 0391(DTG 292143Z JUN 78)(NOTAL)

1. AZOREAN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT PRESIDENT DR. JOAO BOSCO
MOTA AMARALN CONFIRMED THAT HE WILL RPT WILL BE AT LAJES TO
GREET THE VICE PRESIDENT ON JULY 3 STOPOVER. AZOREAN REGIONAL
ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT DR. ALVARO MONJARDINO WILL ALSO BE PRESENT
AS WILL THE LAJES PORTUGUESE BASE COMMANDER GENERAL TOMAS
CONCEICAO E SILVA. ALL THREE SPEAK ENGLISH FLUENTLY.

2. BIO NOTE ON DR. MOTA AMARAL: DR. MOTA AMARAL, 35, AN AZOREAN
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BORN AND LISBON EDUCATED LAWYER HAS HEADED THE AZOREAN REGIONAL
GOVERNMENT(RGA) SINCE 1976 WHEN THE AZORES BECAME AN AUTONOMOUS
REGION UNDER THE NEW PORTUGUESE CONSTITUTION. UNDER THE
PRE-REVOLUTIONARY CAETANO REGIME, DR. MOTA AMARAL WAS A DEPUTY
REPRESENTING THE AZORES IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. AT THAT TIME,
HE BELONGED TO A DEMOCRATIC, REFORM-MINDED "LIBERAL" GROUP OF
LEGISLATORS LED BY FRANCISCO SA CARNEIRO, WHO TODAY HEADS THE

SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY(PSD), THE LARGEST DEMOCRATIC GROUP OPPOSED TO THE SOCIALIST LED GOVERNMENT OF PRIME MINISTER MARIO SOARES. AFTER THE 1974 REVOLUTION, MOTA AMARAL RETURNED TO THE AZORES AND ESTABLISHED THE AZOREAN BRANCH OF THE PSD. MOTA AMARAL WAS ASKED TO FORM THE FIRST AZOREAN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT IN 1976 WHEN HIS PARTY WON AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY OF THE NEWLY CREATED REGIONAL ASSEMBLY.

3. DR. MOTA AMARAL, WHO IS UNMARRIED, IS A DEVOUT ROMAN CATHOLIC AND MEMBER OF THE SPANISH BASED LAY ORGANIZATION CALLED OPUS DEI. DR. MOTA AMARAL WAS MOST RECENTLY IN THE UNITED STATES IN OCTOBER 1977 WHEN HE VISITED AZOREAN IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES IN CALIFORNIA AND NEW ENGLAND.

4. BACKGROUND - LAJES BASE AGREEMENT: BY THE END OF JULY, WE HOPE TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT WITH PORTUGAL PROVIDING FOR CONTINUED U.S. MILITARY USE OF LAJES AIR BASE. AS IS THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AZOREAN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT(RGA) HAVE PARTICIPATED ACTIVELY IN THE STILL ONGOING FORMULATION OF THE PORTUGUESE(GOP) NEGOTIATING POSITION. THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT, IN FACT, HAS TOLD US THAT THE FAILURE OF THE GOP TO COME TO AN INTERNAL AGREEMENT WITH THE AZOREANS ON A UNIFIED NEGOTIATING POSITION HAS SLOWED THE PROCESS OF REACHING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. ACCORDING TO THE GOP, SPECIFIC INTERNAL STUMBLING BLOCKS INCLUDE AZOREAN INSISTENCE 1) THAT A LAJES AGREEMENT EXPIRE IN 1982 RATHER THAN LATER; 2) THAT THE REGION RECEIVE 100 MILLION DOLLARS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OUT OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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TOTAL QUID FOR PORTUGAL RESULTING FROM THE AGREEMENT RATHER THAN THE 80 MILLION THAT WE MIGHT BE WILLING TO ACCEPT; AND 3) THAT THE U.S. LAJES BASE COMMAND AGREE TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH PORTUGUESE LABOR UNIONS RATHER THAN THROUGH THE PORTUGUESE AIR BASE COMMAND, AS WE WOULD STRONGLY PREFER.

5. IN A MEETING WITH GOP FOREIGN MINISTER SA MACHADO JUNE 12, AMBASSADOR BLOOMFIELD SUGGESTED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER TAKE PERSONAL CHARGE IN WORKING OUT A SINGLE PORTUGUESE POSITION WITH THE AZOREANS IN ORDER THAT A BASE AGREEMENT CAN BE ACHIEVED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

6. TALKING POINT: DR. MOTA AMARAL WILL PROBABLY TELL YOU THAT THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT IS ANXIOUS TO REACH A LAJES BASE AGREEMENT NOW BECAUSE THE RESULTING ECONOMIC QUID IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE REGION TO CARRY OUT MAJOR PLANNED INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS. YOU SHOULD TELL DR. MOTA AMARAL THAT YOU WELCOME HIS ATTITUDE AND LOOK FORWARD TO AN EARLY SIGNING OF THE LAJES BASE AGREEMENT.

7. BACKGROUND - AZORES/LISBON RELATIONS: UNTIL VERY RECENTLY, RELATIONS BETWEEN THE AZOREAN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT(RGA) AND THE

GOVERNMENT OF PORTUGAL(GOP) WERE POOR AND OFTEN STORMY. THE RGA HAD LONG CLAIMED THAT THE SOCIALIST-DOMINATED GOVERNMENT OF PRIME MINISTER MARIO SOARES WAS DELIBERATELY DRAGGING ITS FEET IN GRANTING MEASURES DESIGNED TO IMPLEMENT THE REGIONAL AUTONOMY GUARANTEED BY THE PORTUGUESE CONSTITUTION. FOR THEIR PART, MANY SOCIALISTS WERE OPENLY SUSPICIOUS THAT THE RGA'S REAL AIM IN PRESSING SO HARD FOR AUTONOMY WAS TO MOVE THE ARCHIPELAGO TOWARD EVENTUAL INDEPENDENCE.

8. THE RGA/GOP CONFLICT WAS BASED IN PART ON THE MAJOR IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE SOCIALISTS AND THE MARKEDLY MORE CONSERVATIVE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY WHICH CONTROLS THE AZOREAN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT. ALSO AN IMPORTANT FACTOR WAS LONG STANDING AZOREAN RESENTMENT OVER CENTURIES OF NEGLECT AND SECOND CONFIDENTIAL

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CLASS TREATMENT BY LISBON.

9. OVER THE LAST SIX WEEKS, HOWEVER, THERE HAVE BEEN SIGNS OF A MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE REGIONAL AND CENTRAL GOVERNMENTS. AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE SOARES GOVERNMENT, GOP AND RGA REPRESENTATIVES HAVE BEGUN A SERIES OF MEETINGS TO WORK OUT DISAGREEMENTS OVER THE SHAPE WHICH REGIONAL AUTONOMY IS TO TAKE.

10. TALKING POINT: WHILE YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN BRINGING UP THIS SUBJECT, DR. MOTA AMARAL LIKELY WILL VOLUNTEER HIS VIEWS ON THE IMPROVED PROSPECTS FOR AZOREAN AUTONOMY. YOU SHOULD RESPOND BY EMPHASIZING THAT THE U.S. CONSIDERS THE QUESTION OF RGA/GOP RELATIONS TO BE AN INTERNAL PORTUGUESE MATTER, BUT WELCOME SIGNS THAT THE REGION AND THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ARE WORKING OUT THEIR DIFFERENCES. FYI: THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT IS EXTREMELY SENSITIVE TO ANY REAL OR IMAGINED THREATS TO ITS SOVERIGNTY OVER THE AZORES. END FYI.

11. BACKGROUND - AZOREAN IMMIGRATION TO THE U.S.: OVER 80,000 AZOREANS HAVE IMMIGRATED TO THE UNITED STATES SINCE 1965; 5,000 ARE PROJECTED TO IMMIGRATE TO THE U.S. IN FY-78 ALONE. COUNTING THOSE FROM EARLIER WAVES OF IMMIGRATION, AZOREAN-AMERICANS, LARGELY CONCENTRATED IN NEW ENGLAND AND CALIFORNIA, NOW NUMBER SEVERAL HUNDRED THOUSAND. THESE FRUGAL, HARD WORKING PEOPLE SEND BACK MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN REMITTANCES EACH YEAR WHICH PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THE WELL BEING OF THE REGION. THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT'S DESIRE TO STRENGTHEN TIES WITH IMMIGRANT AZOREAN COMMUNITIES WAS THE PRINCIPAL REASON FOR DR. MOTA AMARAL'S TRIP TO THE U.S. LAST OCTOBER. THE RGA HOPES THAT INCREASED REMITTANCES, DIRECT INVESTMENTS FROM IMMIGRANTS AND AZOREAN-AMERICAN TOURISM TO THE REGION WILL HELP SPUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AS WILL THE CREATION OF MARKETS FOR AZOREAN PRODUCTS, CONFIDENTIAL

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PRINCIPALLY FOOD PRODUCTS, AMONG AZOREAN AMERICANS.

12. TALKING POINT: YOU SHOULD EXPRESS YOUR AWARENESS OF THE
SOLID CONTRIBUTION AZOREAN AND OTHER PORTUGUESE IMMIGRANTS ARE
MAKING TO AMERICA. MACK UNQUOTE VANCE

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